



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**AUSTIN BANK ROBBER SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that 25-year-old Steven Carl Chesbrough of Austin, Texas, was sentenced this morning to 294 months in federal prison for committing four bank robberies and using a firearm during a crime of violence

In addition, U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks ordered that Chesbrough pay \$85,843.00 restitution and be placed under supervised release for a period of five years after completing his prison term.

During his plea on November 21, 2003, Chesbrough admitted to robbing an Austin branch of Bank of America twice—on November 6, 2001, and again on August 18, 2003. He also admitted to robbing the Washington Mutual Bank in Dallas on July 7, 2003, and the armed robbery of the Austin Telco Federal Credit Union on August 6, 2003. He also admitted to using a Ruger 9mm semiautomatic pistol in the commission of the robberies.

“Today’s sentence of 24 and a half years in federal prison is a prime example of the success that can be achieved through President Bush’s initiative to reduce gun violence known as Project Safe Neighborhoods,” stated U.S. Attorney Sutton. “Austin is a little safer today now that this armed bank robber is behind bars. Our office is committed to aggressively prosecuting gun crime and making our communities safer places in which to live.”

This case was investigated by agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Austin Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Gerald C. Carruth prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

The prosecution of this case is another example of how the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Texas is implementing the Department of Justice’s gun crime initiative - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). Modeled after the success of Project Texas Exile, Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal initiative designed to reduce gun violence in our communities. PSN promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to target violent criminals who use guns and insures that when an armed criminal is arrested, that individual will face swift criminal prosecution and be exiled from the community through the use of stiff mandatory prison sentences.

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